



April 25, 2017

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

Congratulations on your confirmation as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As partners with USDA, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) looks forward to working with you to advance U.S. agriculture.

NASDA represents the Commissioners, Secretaries, and Directors of the state departments of agriculture in all fifty states and four U.S. territories. State departments of agriculture are responsible for a wide range of programs including food safety, conservation, environmental protection, water quality, and fostering the economic vitality of our rural communities.

NASDA calls for a renewed commitment to Cooperative Federalism – a robust partnership and role for states in federal policymaking – to ensure agriculture’s economic stability while guaranteeing safe and accessible food. This is a top priority for NASDA, and we are eager to work with you and your team on enhancing the states’ role in the regulatory, enforcement, and other programmatic responsibilities of USDA. We are especially interested in exploring new ways the state departments of agriculture can partner with USDA.

To build on this partnership, we are eager to convene a meeting with you and members of NASDA’s leadership at your earliest convenience. We stand ready to work with your team to arrange those details.

Again, congratulations on your confirmation. NASDA looks forward to advancing the partnership between USDA and the state departments of agriculture to the benefit of U.S. farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. Please contact Nathan Bowen (nathan@nasda.org) if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara P. Glenn". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Barbara P. Glenn, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer